

*Application No. 09/707,536*REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 10, 2004. Claim 1 has been amended and Claims 15-20 have been canceled, without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14 are now pending. As set out more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney for Applicants on August 18, 2004. During that interview, it was agreed that Claim 18 was allowable over the prior art. The Examiner indicated that independent claims incorporating the limitations of Claim 18 would be allowable.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the term "about" is found to render the claims indefinite. In the amendments set forth above, the term "about" has been removed from the claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,484,620 to Oeschle et al. ("Oeschle"). In the amendments set forth above, the limitations of Claim 18 have been added to Claim 1. As agreed during the telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned, and as confirmed by the interview summary having a mailing date of August 23, 2004, the limitations of Claim 18 are allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom should be allowed. Claims 15-20 have been canceled. Therefore, for at least these reasons, the rejections of the claims as obvious should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would expedite the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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